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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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The following is a summary of Soviet activities along the Soviet-Iranian border during the period 8 - 12 January 1951.

1. Pol Dasht

9 January

Rail Traffic

Six trains composed of 14 passenger cars, 82 closed cars, 12 tank cars, and two cars carrying machinery, 30 carrying coal, and 24 carrying timber. (Direction not given)

night

Three trains of unknown make-up. (Direction not given)

10-12 January

(report for three days)

Rail Traffic

20 trains composed of 42 passenger cars, 216 closed cars, 12 tank cars, 16 empty gondolas, and 82 cars carrying coal, 85 carrying trucks, 80 carrying timber, one carrying two water pumps, and 35 carrying autos and 10 tractors. (Direction not given)

night

12 trains of unknown make-up. (Direction not given)

2. Eshulfa

9 January

Rail Traffic

Four trains composed of 36 passenger cars, 37 box cars, and 45 gondolas carrying trucks, timber, coal, and two tractors. (Direction not given)

night

Six trains of unknown make-up. (Direction not given)

0700-1600 hours

Telephone wire was installed northwest of Manjiabad (not located, Manjinabad?)

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10 January

Rail Traffic

11 trains composed of 28 passenger cars, 173 box cars, two tank cars, 12 empty gondolas, 25 gondolas carrying 21 trucks, coal, lumber, and fuel drums, and one diesel locomotive. (Direction not given)

night

Six trains of unknown make-up. (Direction not given)

3. Sia Rud  
9 January

Rail Traffic

Three trains composed of 28 passenger cars, 34 freight cars, 27 covered cars, three tank cars, and five empty gondolas. One diesel locomotive with one gondola carrying 15 civilians was also observed. (Direction not given)

10-11 January  
(report for two days)

Rail Traffic

Eight trains composed of 62 passenger cars, 84 tank cars, and 86 gondolas carrying a few cases of machine parts, 66 carrying trucks, and 33 carrying logs and eight trucks. (Direction not given)

4. Khuda Afarin  
9 January

Rail Traffic

Four trains composed of 53 freight cars, 15 tank cars, and 98 gondolas. (Direction not given)

5. Namin  
9 January

Routine road and patrol activity took place in the area of Namin.

One white rocket was fired at Leji, after which searchlights lit up behind the summit of Shandan.

10 January

Routine patrol activity took place in the area of Namin.

Rifle firing practice took place in the area of Namin.

6. Astara  
10 January

Road Traffic

North and southbound between Astara and Lenkoran: two jeeps, one motorcycle, one ambulance, seven trucks, and four carts carrying five officers, 25 armed and 11 unarmed soldiers, and one portable wireless.

East and westbound between Astara and Masjed Mahalleh: two jeeps, 11 trucks, and 16 carts carrying two officers and 33 armed and 46 unarmed soldiers. One group of armed cavalrymen and 28 civilians were also observed.

Between Masjed Mahalleh and the post under observation farthest west: one motorcycle, 13 trucks, and seven carts carrying one officer, 22 armed and 35 unarmed soldiers, five civilians, foodstuffs, logs, and one portable wireless.

One group of armed infantrymen was also observed.

One white rocket was fired at Masjed Mahalleh.

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11-12 January  
(report for two days)

Road Traffic

North and southbound between Astara and Lenkoran: 6 jeeps, two ambulances, 31 trucks, and six carts carrying 17 officers, 108 armed and 16 unarmed soldiers, cement, lime, kerosene (presumably drums), cartridge boxes, and one portable wireless. Two cavalry officers and one group of unarmed infantrymen were also observed.

East and westbound between Astara and Masjed Mahalleh: two motorcycles, 33 trucks, and 21 carts carrying eight officers, 231 armed and 38 unarmed soldiers, 57 civilians, foodstuffs, logs, sand, stone, and wooden handles.

One group of unarmed soldiers was also observed.

Between Masjed Mahalleh and the post under observation farthest west: three ambulances, one motorcycle, 14 trucks, and 26 carts carrying 58 armed and 49 unarmed soldiers, two civilians, winter clothing, foodstuffs, fuel drums, telephone wire, and hay. A group of armed infantrymen and nine unarmed cavalrymen were also observed.

Rifle practice took place at Astara.

Intermittent searchlight activity took place in the area of Astara.

Two rockets were fired at Rudkinar (38-29N, 48-51E), four at Masjed Mahalleh, two at Rezibaghi (possibly Reza Baghi), and eight at Zardali (not located).

7. Serakhs (36-31N, 61-13E)  
8 January

New personnel replaced old personnel at posts in this sector. The new arrivals practiced with rifles, machine guns, and hand grenades.

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